

***** ABSTRACT ONLY *****

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Abstract

Future Directions of Fire Research
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The underlying premises for the fire research program at NIST have changed over the years and so has the focus of the research effort. This presentation reviews that history, and then examines how the world is changing including the state of the fire problem, fire safety technology and ongoing research, and summarizes the fire research priorities of NIST, in particular, and points out some of the central issues facing the fire research and engineering communities, generally.

These issues include the explosive growth in numbers of applications of computer-based fire models; the push to performance-based standards and codes and the associated problems of validation, data, and acceptance; the broadening needs of the fire services; and the challenges associated with delivering the benefits of advances in science and technologies to fire safety. Whereas some argue there is a surplus of fire research results awaiting implementation, and, to some extent this is true, of greater concern are the critical unmet research needs which are crucial to the success of "assured fire safety" or engineered fire safety.